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THE ADVERSARY

Coiled around you is he—
A little blacker than a shadow.

Before my lips reach yours
I have to push him from them.
That's why my kisses
Are so gentle.

He is also coiled around me.
Do you feel his scales as I?
Perhaps that's why we kiss at all—
I know so little.

A POLISH GIRL

You carry the dishes in your hands
But your thoughts are elsewhere:

As if you inwardly knew
That in your kisses is the glow
Of Sobietsky and the heroes;

That your body has the pungent taste
Which the willow-tree and the rose
Perhaps feel in the soil;

And that your hair carries the fragrance
Of the willow and the rose itself.